(MSY) and Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) for women empowerment were to be recast and merged, at least two years ago, to make them more effective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Mahila Samriddhi Yojana introduced in 1993 to inculcate saving among rural women was abandoned in 1997;

(c) if so, the reasons for disbanding Mahila Samriddhi Yojana in 1997; and

(d) the reasons as to why Mahila Samriddhi Yojana has not been merged with Indira Mahila Yojana which too involves mobilization of women into self-help groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is a proposal to recast and merge Indira Mahila Yojana and Mahila Samriddhi Yojana.

(b) and (c) Opening of any new account under Mahila Samriddhi Yojana was discontinued after 31st March, 1997 because of its high operational costs.

(d) The proposal to merge Indira Mahila Yojana and Mahila Samriddhi Yojana is under consideration. It envisages the mobilization of women into self-help groups for income generation, awareness generation and convergence of various activities. This is with a long-term aim of their social and economic empowerment.

Recruitment Rules for Director, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

3499. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment rules for the post of Director, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti provide, *inter alia*, for appointment of eminent educationists;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to publicise the vacancy so as to attract attention of such celebrities;

(c) whether allegations against the present incumbent have been got probed; and

(d) if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The recruitment rules provide for appointment of Director, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, by transfer on deputation from among eminent educationists with extensive experience in educational administration and planning or Officers working under the Central/State Govts./ Universities/Recognised Research Institutions/Semi-Govts./Statutory or Autonomous Organisations. As and when the vacancy arises, it is circulated to (i) all State Governments/UT Administrations (ii) Universities/Recognised Research Institutions/Autonomous Bodies/Statutory Bodies and is also published in the Employment News. Regarding allegations against the present incumbent, these were examined and it was found that they were without substance.

Operation knowledge

†3500. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, under the operation knowledge campaign launched under information technology, a scheme to enable the educated, efficient youth to meet their need for their employment, and for their development, was considered;

(b) if so, the detailed outlines of the scheme; and

(c) the time-bound target fixed by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The Task Force on Human Resource Development in Information Technology (IT) has been constituted to look at the issues of IT manpower development and other related issues with IT education in the country. Ministry of Information Technology has submitted a document namely "Operation Knowledge' for discussion in the Task Force. This would be considered by the Task Force in addition to various other inputs that the Task Force will receive. The Task Force is expected to look at the whole range of issues relating to IT education holistically.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.